September 2003

IMPORT HEALTH REQUIREMENTS OF JAPAN FOR BREEDING AND FEEDER HORSES EXPORTED FROM THE UNITED STATES

The horse must be accompanied by a U.S. Origin Health Certificate issued by a veterinarian authorized by the U.S. Department of Agriculture and endorsed by a Veterinary Services (VS) veterinarian. The certificate must contain the names and addresses of the consignor and consignee and complete identification of the animal. It must also contain the following certification statements and the results of the indicated testing.

CERTIFICATION STATEMENTS

1. The United States is free of African horse sickness, horse pox, glanders, contagious equine metritis, epizootic lymphangitis, and equine trypanosomiasis (including dourine and surra).

2. The stabling premises have experienced no cases of vesicular stomatitis, equine encephalomyelitis (of any type, including Venezuelan equine encephalomyelitis), equine infectious anemia, equine influenza, equine piroplasmosis, equine rhinopneumonitis, equine viral arteritis, equine coital exanthema, salmonellosis (*S. abortus equi*), strangles, or West Nile fever during the 6 months prior to export, and no case of Potomac horse fever during the 1 year prior to export.

3. The horse has been stabled on the premises addressed in Certification Statement No. 2 for at least 60 days prior to commencement of USDA-approved export isolation.

4. The horse has been held under veterinary inspection at_____, a USDA-approved isolation facility, for at least 7 days prior to shipment, from_____ to_____. From the time of entry into the isolation facility the horse has not been in contact with other animals not destined for export to Japan.

5. During the 1 year prior to export, the horse was vaccinated against West Nile fever on_____ and again on_____ (at least 3 weeks but not more than 6 weeks after the first vaccination) with_____, a USDA-licensed vaccine.

OR*

During the 1 year prior to export, on_____, the horse received a booster dose of _____, a USDA-licensed vaccine against West Nile fever.

OR*

During the 60 days prior to entry into the isolation facility, the horse was stabled on premises that were at least 50 km from any premises which had a confirmed case of West Nile fever (in any species) for that period.

*Line out the two entries that do not apply.

6. During the 1 year prior to export, the horse was vaccinated against equine influenza on_____ and again on_____ (at least 4 weeks but not more than 6 weeks after the first vaccination) with_____, a USDA-licensed vaccine.

OR (line out the entry that does not apply)

During the 1 year prior to export, on_____, the horse received a booster dose of_____, a USDA-licensed vaccine against equine influenza.

7. The horse showed no signs of infectious disease on clinical examination during isolation.

8. All equipment, containers, and vehicles used for transportation of the horse shall be cleaned and disinfected with a USDA-approved disinfectant.

9. The horse shall be kept isolated from all animals not of the same consignment during transportation in the United States and shipment to Japan.

10. Feed and bedding to be used during transportation/shipment shall be from the same source as that used during isolation.

TEST REQUIREMENTS

The horse must be tested as prescribed below, with negative results, within 30 days of export.

1. Equine infectious anemia:	Agar-gel immunodiffusion (Coggins) test.
2. Equine piroplasmosis:	Microscopic examination of a blood smear AND EITHER Complement fixation (CF) test, less than 2+ at a 1:5 dilution OR indirect fluorescent antibody test.
3. Salmonellosis:	Standard tube agglutination test for *S. abortus equi* at a 1:320 dilution.
4. Equine viral arteritis:	Serum neutralization (SN) test at a 1:4 dilution in the presence of complement. [See Other Information Statement No. 4 for special instructions for vaccinated stallions.]
5. Vesicular stomatitis:	CF test at a 1:5 dilution OR SN test at a 1:32 dilution.

EMBARKATION CERTIFICATION

At the port of embarkation, a VS port veterinarian shall attach to the U.S. Origin Health Certificate, the Certificate of Inspection of Export Animals (VS Form 17-37) showing:

1. The name and address of the consignor.

2. The name and address of the consignee.

3. The number and species of animals to be shipped.

4. A statement that the animals have been given a careful veterinary inspection at the port of embarkation and found free from evidence of communicable disease and exposure thereto within 24 hours of exportation.

OTHER INFORMATION

1. Feeder horses are defined by Japan as "horses to be slaughtered after 2-4 months of fattening from the time of importation."

2. USDA-approved export isolation means that the animal is confined at a facility that has been inspected by a VS inspector **prior to entry of the animal into isolation** and found in conformance with the provisions of VS Memorandum No. 592.105.

3. If any infectious disease is detected in the horse during import quarantine in Japan, the animal will be returned to the United States or slaughtered by quarantine officials.

4. With respect to equine viral arteritis, the following must be certified on the health certificate for each vaccinated stallion:

4.1. A blood sample was taken just prior to vaccination and found negative by the SN test in the presence of complement (hereafter referred to as the SN test) at a serum dilution of 1:4.

4.2. Three blood samples were taken • one on the premises of origin and two during USDA-approved export isolation • and evaluated at the same time by the SN test, with no significant rise in titer detected. [A four-fold or greater increase shall be considered a significant rise. The sampling interval must, in each case, be 2 weeks, with the third sample taken no more than 10 days prior to shipment.]

4.3. While in USDA-approved export isolation, the stallion covered two mares that had met all import health requirements of Japan, including being tested and found negative by the SN test at a dilution of 1:4 immediately prior to entry into the isolation facility. The stallion covered each mare twice a day for 2 days, and on the 14th and 28th days after the last covering, blood samples were taken from the mares and subjected to the SN test with negative results at a dilution of 1:4. Both mares were found free of signs of equine viral arteritis during the entire isolation period.